Amendments of the claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments of the claims) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.(Currently amended) A method for driving multiple applications (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) by a common dialog management system ~~(1) where~~ comprising:

assigning a unique set of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_n) ~~is assigned~~ to each application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n), and

~~where~~ informing, by the common dialog management system, ~~(1) informs~~ a user [[()]] of the status of an application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) by playback, at a specific point in a dialog flow, of a relevant auditory icon (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) selected from the unique set of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_n) of the respective application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n).

2.(Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~where~~ further comprising:

playing back the auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) of an application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) ~~are played back~~ to indicate to the user a change in operational status of an application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n).

3.(Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~where~~ further comprising:

submitting, by an application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n), ~~submits~~ a set of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_n) and associated instructions concerning the use thereof to the dialog management system ~~(1)~~.

4.(Currently amended) A method according to claim 3, ~~where~~ further comprising:

obtaining identifying information for the individual auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) of an application (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) and associated instructions ~~are obtained~~ by the dialog management system ~~(1)~~, and

retrieving, by the dialog management system, the auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ...,

I$_n$) ~~are retrieved~~ by the dialog management system ~~(1)~~, from the application (A$_1$, A$_2$, A$_3$, ..., A$_n$) upon request.

5.(Currently amended) A method according to claim 3, ~~where~~ <u>further comprising:</u>
<u>acquiring, by the dialog management system,</u> the complete set of auditory icons (S$_1$, S$_2$, S$_3$, ..., S$_n$) of an application (A$_1$, A$_2$, A$_3$, ..., A$_n$) ~~is acquired by the dialog management system (1)~~ at the outset of a dialog flow between the user and the application (A$_1$, A$_2$, A$_3$, ..., A$_n$) or upon activation or installation of the application (A$_1$, A$_2$, A$_3$, ..., A$_n$).

6.(Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~where~~ <u>further comprising:</u>
<u>supplying, by</u> the dialog management system<u>,</u> ~~(1)~~ an application (A$_1$, A$_2$, A$_3$, ..., A$_n$) with a unique set of auditory icons (S$_1$, S$_2$, S$_3$, ..., S$_n$), by modifying non-unique auditory icons (I$_1$, I$_2$, I$_3$, ..., I$_n$) in a set of auditory icons (S$_1$, S$_2$, S$_3$, ..., S$_n$) of the application (A$_1$, A$_2$, A$_3$, ..., A$_n$) [[and/]]or choosing unique auditory icons (I$_1$, I$_2$, I$_3$, ..., I$_n$) for the application (A$_1$, A$_2$, A$_3$, ..., A$_n$) from a collection ~~(13)~~ of auditory icons.

7.(Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, [[where]] <u>wherein</u> the set of auditory icons (S$_1$, S$_2$, S$_3$, ..., S$_n$) for playback in a dialog flow between a user and an application (A$_1$, A$_2$, A$_3$, ..., A$_n$) comprises at least one unique start auditory icon, for playback at commencement of the dialog flow [[and/]]or at least one unique end auditory icon, for playback at conclusion of a dialog flow.

8.(Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, [[where]] <u>wherein</u> the set of auditory icons (S$_1$, S$_2$, S$_3$, ..., S$_n$) for playback in a dialog flow between a user and an application (A$_1$, A$_2$, A$_3$, ..., A$_n$) comprises a number of unique informative auditory icons (I$_1$, I$_2$, I$_3$, ..., I$_n$), for playback at specific points during the dialog flow where each auditory icon (I$_1$, I$_2$, I$_3$, ..., I$_n$) describes a particular type of feedback from the application (A$_1$, A$_2$, A$_3$, ..., A$_n$).

9.(Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~where~~ <u>further comprising:</u>

specifying auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) [[and/]]or playback characteristics of the auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) ~~are specified~~ for a user in a user profile ~~(3)~~.

10.(Currently amended) A dialog management system ~~(1)~~ for driving a number of applications (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n), comprising

      [[-]]   an input detection arrangement ~~(4)~~ for detecting user input ~~(5)~~ to the system;

      [[-]]   a sound output arrangement ~~(6)~~ for outputting audible prompt ~~(7)~~;

      [[-]]   a core dialog engine ~~(8)~~ for coordinating a dialog flow by interpreting user input ~~(5)~~ and generating output prompts ~~()~~;

      [[-]]   an application interface ~~(10)~~ for communication between the dialog management system ~~(1)~~ and the applications (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n);

      [[-]]   a source of unique sets of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_n) assigned to the applications (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n);

      [[-]]   and an auditory icon management unit ~~(11)~~ for selecting relevant auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) from the unique sets of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_n) corresponding to the applications (A_1, A_2, A_3, ..., A_n) for playback at specific points in the dialog flow.

11.(Currently amended) A dialog management system ~~(1)~~ according to claim [[11]] 10, further comprising a means ~~(15)~~ for allowing the user to input auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n).

12.(Currently amended) A dialog management system ~~(1)~~ according to claim [[11]] 10, further comprising an interface ~~(14)~~ for obtaining sets of auditory icons (S_1, S_2, S_3, ..., S_n) or individual auditory icons (I_1, I_2, I_3, ..., I_n) from an external source. ~~(12)~~

13.(Currently amended)   A computer program product directly loadable into the memory of a programmable dialog management system ~~(1)~~ comprising software code portions for performing the ~~steps of a~~ method according to claim 1 when said product is run on the dialog management system ~~(1)~~.